

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 24 March 2009 has been received and considered.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claim 15 stands allegedly objected to under 37 CFR 1.76(c) as failing to further limit the subject matter of its base claim, namely claim 1. Responsive to the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended the language of Claim 15 to clarify the nature of the limitations contained within that claim. In view of these amendments Applicants specifically note that Claim 15 now requires that the stylet is "slidably mounted" within the support needle. Claim 1 provides that the stylet is "releasably secured" within the lumen of the support needle. Claim 1 does not contain the limitation that the stylet is slidably mounted within the lumen. It follows that this slidable mounting differentiates the subject matter of claim 15 from that of Claim 1.

Claim 18 stands allegedly objected to as lacking antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the claim by inserting the term "attach" to rectify the claim and thereby obviate the basis of the present objection.

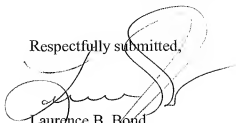
Claim 30 stands objected to as containing two periods instead of one. Applicants have amended the claim to delete one of the periods thereby obviating the basis of the objection. With reference to the objection concerning the phrase "said flexible needle," applicants have reviewed the wording of their prior amendment and have verified that the relevant language of the claim reads "said flexible needle catheter." This particular language finds a proper antecedent basis at line 2 of the base claim, namely claim 1.

In view of the present amendments to the claims and the explanation advanced above, applicants submit that the bases of the objections to claims 15, 18 and 30 have been obviated. The instant amendment is being submitted in order to place the claims in condition for appeal, entry of the amendments is therefore requested. Withdrawal of the objections is furthermore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the above considerations, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims of his application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence B. Bond', is written over the typed name and partially over the address.

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